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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Jack REGULA

Serial No.: 09/421,771

Filed: October 19, 1999

For: Method and Apparatus for Fault Tolerant, Software Transparent and High Data Integrity Extension to a Backplane or Bus Interconnect

Art Unit: 2664

Examiner: Ajit G. PATEL

Tel: (703) 308-5347

Office Action Mailed:

December 3, 2003

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FEB 05 2004

Technology Center 2600

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR § 1.8)**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to:

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450on 1/29/2004 Date 1/29/2004 By: MR**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**

Sir:

This paper is responsive to the outstanding Office action mailed on December 3, 2003 (the "Office Action"). The Office Action set a three-month period for response. Because this Response is being filed timely within the three-month period, no extension fee is due. If the Applicant's attorney is mistaken in this regard, Applicant conditionally petitions for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136(a)(3), and authorization is hereby granted to charge all required

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extension of time fees under 37 CFR § 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 50-0365. Authorization is also granted to charge additional claim fees, if any, and all other fees necessary to file this Response, to the same Deposit Account. A separate paper authorizing the charges is attached to this paper.